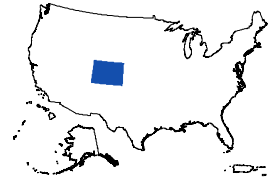


2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus—

Rick Hunt grew up with an agricultural background. His grandfather had a ranch for more than 80 years, and it has always been Rick's dream to have a ranch of his own.

Rick's passion is wildlife; therefore, most of his conservation efforts revolve around the conservation and preservation of wildlife habitat. He is enrolled in several NRCS programs, including EQIP, as well as programs other agencies manage. In addition to NRCS, he is working with the U.S. Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service. The collaborative efforts of both NRCS' program and Interior's program allowed Rick to improve grazing management and wildlife habitat on approximately 676 acres and to construct 13,710 feet of fence.

To date Rick has planted more than 11,000 trees and plans to plant more than 100,000 within the next 10 years.

Colorado Summary

Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has been and continues to be one of the most popular with Colorado's landowners. Since its inception, Colorado has ranked in the top 10 states for EQIP applications, funds requested, and funds allocated. During FY 2000 NRCS funded 589 contracts within the locally identified priority areas totaling 5.2 million dollars.

Accomplishments

Colorado's EQIP program provides assistance to help combat the State's various natural resource problems. One example is the assistance EQIP provides to resolving the State's salinity issue. The Colorado River provides agricultural municipal and industrial water for more than 18 million people and irrigation water for approximately 1.7 million acres in the U.S. The major concern in the River Basin is the threat of salinity in both the U.S. and the Republic of Mexico. The Upper reach of Colorado River in Colorado has a salt concentration of about 0 milligrams per liter. By the time the river reaches the Hoover Dam, it is carrying about 9 million tons of salt annually.

Progress is being made, although the Colorado River Salinity Program no longer exists. Many of the goals of the program have been incorporated into the State's EQIP program resulting in 147,000 million tons reduction of salt dumping into the Colorado River and more than 43 percent of the overall goal being met. The EQIP program in Colorado also combats issues surrounding grazing lands, water quality, livestock waste, soil erosion, and wildlife.

Outlook

EQIP is vital to achieve the agricultural goals of the state. Additional funding will allow us to meet the documented demand landowners express for this program.

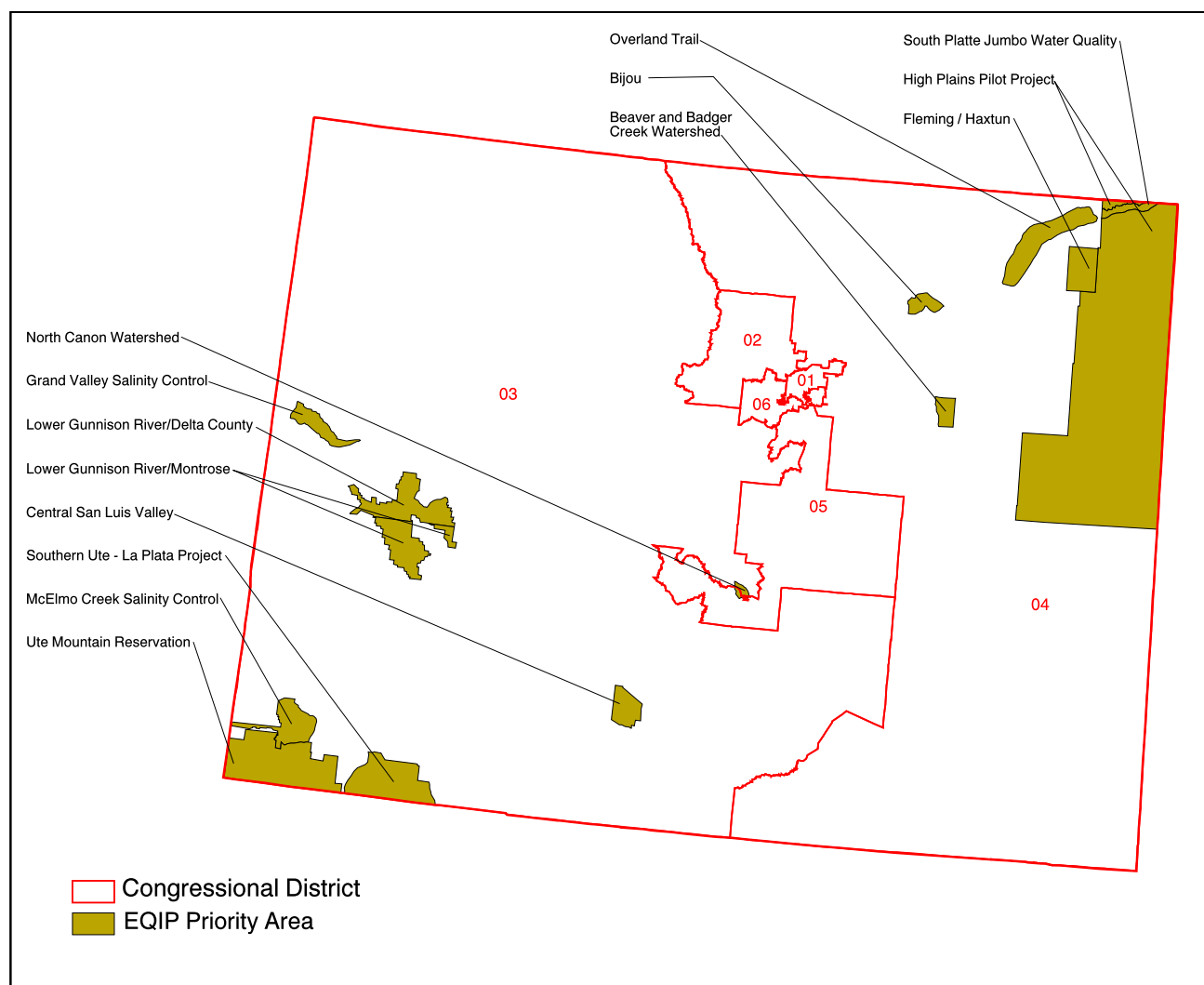
State contact

Stuart Simpson, 303-236-2886 ext.204



Rick Hunt's passion is wildlife, therefore, most of his conservation efforts revolve around conserving and preserving wildlife habitat.

Colorado EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Colorado EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 0	\$1,939,914	303	\$7,712,625	979
District 3	2,218,228	167	10,403,718	848
District 4	1,177,172	157	3,924,794	593
State Totals	\$5,335,314	627	\$22,041,137	2,420

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas which may include more than one district. Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns which can be in any Congressional District in the state.

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000

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